

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of March 2, 2004 and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated the allowability of claims 2-4 Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 and it is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 3-10 have been amended to be consistent with and properly dependent ultimately from claim 1 and thereby are deemed to be in condition for allowance therewith.

The references which have been cited in rejection of the claims are no longer applicable to allowable claim 1 and thereby any comment thereto is not necessary.

New claims 11-19 have been added to the application of which claim 11 is an independent claim and claims 12-19 are dependent therefrom.

Claim 11 corresponds in scope to original claim 8 and it is respectfully submitted that this claim is allowable along with the claims dependent therefrom.

The Examiner has rejected claim 8 on Koegel, et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In rejecting claim 8 the Examiner states on page 4, paragraph 4:

"In regard to claim 8, Koegel et al. discloses that the flexible printed circuit board 10 is formed as a shape of stairs (see figures 1 and 8) so as to match up to the height of the body 26."

Referring to FIG. 1 and related descriptions thereof, i.e. column 2, lines 38 to 61, it is taught:

"...flexible film circuit strip 10 provides an array of circuits extending to pads 12 exposed along a surface 14 of an insulative film at a leading end 16. A film-adjacent surface of backer plate 40 of the present invention is secured to insulated surface 18 of strip 10, such as by double sided adhesive tape (see FIG. 7). Together, leading strip end portion 20 and backer plate 40 define a connector assembly 22 that is insertable into a strip-receiving cavity 24 of receptacle connector 26 that is shown mounted to circuit board 28 and electrically connected to circuits thereof by contacts 30 that also become electrically connected to circuits of flexible film circuit strip 10 upon mating, thus interconnecting the circuit board to the strip. The backer plate of the present invention is complementary to a commercially available receptacle connector, such as the aforementioned product of AMP Incorporated, and requires no changes therein, and furthermore requires no

processing of the flexible film circuit strip to be used therewith.

Planar body section 42 of backer plate 40 extends from leading edge 44 to rear edge 46, and opposed side walls 48 coextend orthogonally therefrom to define therebetween a strip-receiving nest 50 having a film-adjacent surface 52 adhered to insulated surface 18 of strip 10."

From FIG. 1 and the related the descriptions thereof there is no mention or suggestion made that the flexible printed circuit board 10 is formed as a shape of stairs to match up to the height of the body 26.

Referring to FIG. 8 and its related description in column 3, lines 42 to 54, when it is disclosed:

"As seen in FIGS. 8 and 9, retention embossments 92 will seat in corresponding detents 94 of circuit board 28 just forwardly of receptacle connector 26, when assembly 96 is fully inserted into plug-receiving cavity 98. Retention embossments 92 may be used to enhance the retention of assembly 96 in connector 26 that is otherwise attained by detents 56 and connector embossments 34 as seen in FIGS. 2 to 4."

In other words, this paragraph mainly focuses on the enhancement of the retention between assembly 96 and connector 26.

It is concluded, that neither FIG. 1 and its related description nor FIG. 8 and its related description mention or suggest that the flexible printed circuit board 10 can form a shape of stairs so as to match up to the height of the body 26.

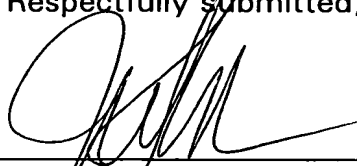
For the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is in allowable condition along with claims 1 and 3-10.

The specification has been amended to correct minor grammatical informalities in order to place the specification into suitable condition for issue.

Figs. 2A, 3A and 3C have been corrected in order to rotate speaker 16, 90 degrees. In this respect, as well known to those skilled in the art, the elastic terminals 161 of speaker 16 have to be arranged to face the front end of the reinforcing plate 22 to allow the two sides of the reinforcing plate 22 to slide into the channels 213 of the body 21. The corrected drawings do not add any new matter but correct an inadvertent illustration error and are now consistent with the disclosure in the application.

On the basis of the above action and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance early notice of which would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian H. Cohen', written over a horizontal line.

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